

**The Living Word Of God** (Hebrews 4:12-13)

**Proposition:** Every one of us must come to grips with the truth of the Living word of God, by acknowledging the three realities we find in these two verses.

**I. The Authority of the Living Word of God (Vs. 12)**

- A. An Authoritative Conception (Vs. 12a)
- B. An Authoritative Comparison (Vs. 12d)

**II. The Activity of the Living Word of God (Vs. 12)**

- A. A Productive Activity (Vs. 12b)
- B. A Powerful Activity (Vs. 12c)

**III. The Ability of the Living Word of God (Vs. 12-13)**

- A. A Dividing Ability (Vs. 12d)
- B. A Discerning Ability (Vs. 12e)
- C. A Detecting Ability (Vs. 13)

## The Living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12-13)

While driving a van load of kids home from VBS this year, one of them asked me if I would give him a Bible. After I agreed he began to tell me what happened to his old Bible. He said someone broke into his house. Stole all his family's stuff and took his Bible and burned it in his front yard. "That's awful," I said. He said I took what was left of it and gave it to my grandpa and he said he would bury it in the Bible Graveyard. "Bible Graveyard?" Yes, my grandpa told me about it. It's out in Kensington and that's where they take burned, torn and old dead bibles out to to give them a proper burial. Well contrary to what this young man has been told by his grandpa, there are no dead Bibles. Chop it, burn it, tear it, the fragments of truth are living and powerful. One man was given a New Testament. He received it saying, just the right size for rolling my cigarettes. He smoked up most of the gospels, thought I'd better read some of this before it's all gone. Began reading in John 10, was

## I. The Authority of the Living Word of God

On average 40,000 new books are published each year and every one of them arrive on the shelf D.O.A. The only living



book is the Bible, why because of its Authority

### A. An Authoritative Conception (12a)

The word of "God"! Not just anybody's words. But the words of God! Ps 119:89  
Is 40:8, 1 Peter 1:25, 2 Tim 3:16. This Bible has its origins in the breath of Almighty God! No it was not flung down to the earth from the heavens, But God saw fit to use the pens of men to write his words. d Peter 1:21 Horatius Bonar wrote: 'Thy thoughts are here, my God; Expressed in words divine; The utterance of heavenly lips; In every sacred line.'

### B. An Authoritative Comparison (12c)

There are many things God compares his word to. One writer explains it this way: A mirror to show us ourselves as But here in our text it is compared to a sword. The sword here indicates a large dagger worn on the hip, used in battle to slash or to cut or to stab. The word of God is to be used to expose, not kill. Its piercing penetrating power is used cut the rebellious exterior of man and expose the inner needs of the heart. It penetrates our pride and slices our self.

## II. The Actuality of the Living Word of God

When the eyes of sinful man are cast upon the pages of the Bible and its meaning becomes understandable to the mind, the word

- 1) ... John 10, was immediately struck by its truth and gave his heart and live to Jesus Christ! The Bible that you hold in your lap is a living bible. You may not have a Living Translation Bible, but if you have a translation of the Holy scriptures, you have a living Bible! There is no place for that living book in the grave of the dead! Every one of us must come to grips with the truth of the Living word of God, by acknowledging the three realities we find in these two verses.
- 2) Psalms 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. 1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in...
- 3) 2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
- 4) A mirror to show us ourselves as we are and may be (James 1:23-25). A laver to wash away our sin and defilement (Eph. 5:26). A lamp and light to guide us in the right way (Psa. 119:105). As milk, bread, strong meat, and honey, affording sustenance and satisfaction to the believer at all stages of spiritual development (Heb. 5:12-14, Psa. 19:10). As fine gold to enrich us with heavenly treasure (Psa. 19:10). As seed to begat souls in God's image and to plant harvest fields for God (Matt. 13, James 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23). As rain which produces life and fruit (Isa. 55:10-11). As a fire which burns away the chaff and which ignites us to action (Jer. 23:29). As water whereby we are washed and cleansed (Eph. 5:26).
- 5) ...slices our selfrightiousness, and wounds our rebellion. "A missionary gave a Bible to a non-Christian Chinese man. Soon he returned and said, "Every time I read it, it kicks me."

1) ...in that individual to either condemn, convict, convert or confirm them. It is active.

2) ...all the potential to actively produce life within it's self. But will not if laid dormant on a shelf. The seed of the word of God must be implanted into the human heart for activity to begin.

3) 1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

4) ...us, but the Word of God is powerful! It changes us!"



of God is actually working in that individual too ①  
A. A Productive Activity - (12b) Notice  
the word; "quick". It doesn't mean fast  
it is an old english word that means alive  
"to live, to be alive" to be actually alive  
the tense indicate constantly active. These  
words may not breathe, but they have  
breathed life into many a sin sick soul. They  
may not move of their own ability, but they  
have moved the hearts of many to repentance.  
They produce in one of themselves, but they  
have produced many lives lived to the glory of  
God. Is it active in your life. A seed has all the

B. A Powerful Activity - (12c) It is  
not only quick but it is powerful.  
We get our inward energy from this greek  
word. It is operative and effectual. Not  
only alive, but operating. When we read  
the Living Word of God we place our self  
on the operating table of willingness and  
allow God to work on our lives. 1 Thess<sup>3</sup> 2:13  
Paul said that the Word of God that he preached  
to them was working that truth into their lives.  
One preacher said "Some books may touch us,  
others may inspire us and delight us, but ④

III. The Ability of the Living Word of God  
Now I wish I could take my Bible  
(My Big Thick Thompson Chain Bible) and  
knock some sense into some people but the

and how it works. Although there is a temporary

**A. A Dividing Ability - (120)** Dividing  
assunder... Dividing or separating out.  
The idea is that it penetrates every part  
of life. from our Spirit that communicates  
w/ God to our soul that relates to others  
to our very physical body. You can not  
hide from this double edged sword! I've  
seen first hand the prideful male be cut to the

**B. A Discerning Ability** "discerner" =  
English "critic" Speaks of Judging & Killful  
It is the amazing ability to probe the  
inward thought and attitudes hidden  
in the heart of man. We can not hide from  
its discerning Ability to place the tip of  
the sword right on the heart of our problem.

The Lord Jesus exemplifies this ability.

**C. A Destructive Ability (13)** - A peder had  
two distinct uses in ancient times it was  
used of a wrestler taking his opponent by  
the throat, face to face. The other is  
regard to criminal trial, a sharp dagger  
brand to the neck of accused just below the  
chin could not bow his head but must face  
court. When a person comes in contact w/ the

**IV. Close: F.W. Borchers tells the story**

(4)



- 1) ...a temporary external affect, that's not what is happening in our text. Notice the ability of the Living Word of God!
- 2) ...in several passages of scripture. First, we read in Matthew 9:4, "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" Also, Matthew 12:25, "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." Also in Matthew 22:18 we read, "But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?" Finally in Luke 6:8 we read, "But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth." The Living Word of God likewise penetrates the hearts of those giving ear to it.
- 3) ...with the word of God, he is comforted with the truth of who God is and what he demands and we see clearly who we really are. Nothing is hidden! Account must be given!
- 4) F.W. Boreham tells the story of Edwin Rushworth, who had been a skeptic for many years. One day he resolved to read for an hour a day the book (Bible) he had so long derided. After a the first week of reading he looked up at his wife and said, "Wife, if this book is right, we are all wrong." After the second week he said, "Wife, if this book is right, we are lost!" A few nights later he said, "Wife, if this book is right, we may be saved!" The Word of God has penetrated his heart. Thank God for the penetrating power of the Word of God.